100 crores. Vayudoot is currently incurring losses at about Rs. 2.70 crores per month.

(b) The main reasons for the losses are: aged and uneconomic fleet; short haul operations, unremunerative fare structure, excessive expansion of the operations and overstaffing.

(c) There is hardly any scope for Government providing budget support or subsidy to organisations in the civil aviation sector. It is imperative that they operate on commercial principles and generate resources of their own to finance their operations and expansion.

(d) No, Sir.

Proposal to purchase power from Nepal

302. SHRI KAPIL VERMA:
SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL:
KUMARI CHANDRIKA PREMJI KENIA:

Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to purchase surplus power from Nepal; if so, what are the details in this regard; and

(b) what is outcome of recent talks between Prime Minister of India and Nepal in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR ENERGY (SHRI BABANRAO DHAKNE): (a) During the 1st Meeting of the Indo-Nepal Sub-Commission on Water Resources held in December, 1988, Nepal indicated possibilities of additional power supply to India upto 200 MW from their future projects. India had agreed to absorb this additional power subject to agreement on tariff and operational aspects.

(b) During the recent talks between the Prime Ministers of India and Nepal it was agreed in principle by India to purchase surplus power from Nepalese hydroelectric projects subject to negotiations and agreement on prices.

Training plan for Pilots

303. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the pilots of Indian Airlines are not happy with the new training plan to make them available for Airbus-300 instead of Airbus-320; and

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI HARMOHAN DHAWAN): (a) and (b) No, Sir. The movement of seventeen P2 pilots from A-320 to A-300 is in accordance with the career Profession Pattern settled between the Indian Commercial Pilots Association and the management of the Indian Airlines.

Clearance to Jodhpur Solar Power Plant

304. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Jodhpur Solar Power Plant has not been cleared by the Central Government; and

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR ENERGY (SHRI KALYAN SINGH KALVI): (a) and (b) The proposal to set up a solar power plant near Jodhpur can be taken up for implementation after it is cleared from the techno-economic angle and all necessary inputs have been tied up.

Setting up of new power projects in West Bengal

305. PROF. SOURENDRA BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that West Bengal Government has been repeatedly requesting the Central Government to set up

new power projects in the State for augmenting the power output to meet the increasing demand for electricity there;

(b) whether a number of power projects have been awaiting sanctions of the Central Government; and

(c) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR ENERGY (SHRI BABANRAO DHAKNE): (a) The State Government had requested for the execution of Ramman Hydroelectric project Stage-I (3x12 MW), Stage-III & IV (90 MW) and Stage-V (150-200 MW) in view of financial constraints. 'In principle' approval to the execution of these projects in the Central Sector has been conveyed to the State Government. However, before a final decision is taken in the matter the State Government has been advised to resolve inter-State issues with the Government of Sikkim in regard to Stage-I of the project and expedite submission of detailed project reports for its subsequent stages for technoeconomic clearance.

(b) and (c) A project report for the setting up of Farakka Barrage Hydro Electric Project in the State Sector with an installed capacity of 5x25—125 MW was received in the Central Electricity Authority in April, 1990, from the State Government for technoeconomic clearance. Environmental clearance for the project is awaited. Clarifications on hydrology, civil cost and construction machinery aspects are also awaited from the project authorities.

Attempted hijacking of Indian Airlines flight between Coimbatore and Bangalore

306. SHRI S. MADHAVAN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Airlines flight from Coimbatore to Bangalore was recently attempted to be hijacked and if so, what are its details thereof;

(b) whether Government enquired about the person involved in this incident having connections with Sri Lankan militants; and

(c) if so, what is the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI HARMOHAN DHAWAN): (a) Yes. On 13-9-90, one T. Mahalingam, an engineering student aged 27 years and a native of Coimbatore district in Tamil Nadu, attempted to hijack an Indian Airlines aircraft on flight IC-534 on its flight from Coimbatore to Bangalore. The hijacker commanded the Captain to divert the flight to Colombo for refuelling and onward flying to Perth in Australia. However, the Captain tactfully managed the situation and landed the aircraft at Bangalore airport, where the hijacker was arrested.

(b) and (c) As per the investigations carried out by Karnataka Police, the accused had committed the offence out of his own criminal thoughts and there was no organisational support or sanction from outside.

Supply of coal to thermal power stations in Tamil Nadu

307. SHRI S. MADHAVAN: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the coal supply to the Thermal Power Stations in Tamil Nadu has been often affected, and if so, what are the reasons therefor;

(b) what is the present monthly requirement of coal for the Thermal Stations in Tamil Nadu;

(c) what steps have been taken to supply the full requirement of coal by the Coal India Ltd.; and

(d) whether the Tamil Nadu Government had asked permission to import coal for its requirements; and if so, what action is being taken by the Central Government?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY (SHRI KALYAN SINGH KALVI): (a) Coal supplies to Tamil Nadu thermal